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NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

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Trail & Landscape

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists. THE SHRIKE, a local birding newsletter, is available by separate subscription.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members. See "Coming Events" in this issue.

Membership Fees: Individual (yearly) $10 Sustaining (yearly) $25
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Membership application, correspondence:
THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB
Box 3264 Postal Station C
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

Information:
Mrs. Elaine Dickson
(613) 722-3050 day or evening;
no calls before 10 a.m. please

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548 Rivershore Crescent,
Ottawa K1J 7Y7

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Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

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Robert Chenier
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Jasper, Alberta
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Toronto, Ontario
Jean-Pierre Savard
Delta, B.C.
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Acton, Ontario
Joyce Snyder
St. John's, Nfld.
Steve Varga
Toronto, Ontario
Bradley Ward
London, Ontario
Ron Zdan
Melfort, Saskatchewan

What Are Your Interests? Part 4

You may be aware that many of the study groups are now holding their first meetings. At present all of the larger groups have co-ordinators for the first meeting, but some of the smaller groups are still waiting for a slight increase in membership to make them feasible. I have also taken the liberty of combining a few groups, for instance, Botany, Ferns and Trees, to get everyone involved as quickly as possible.

Here is a breakdown of the groups in terms of the numbers of members and the present co-ordinators at the time of writing.

Group	Co-ordinator(s)	Members
Art	Pat Osler	28
Birds	Stephen O'Donnell	100
Botany, Ferns, Trees	Paul Catling	79
Butterflies	Peter Hall	22
Herptiles	Stephen Darbyshire	3
Insects	Fenja Brodo	20
Invertebrates, Limnology, Molluscs	Sharon Smith	7
Mushrooms	Jim Ginns, Keith Egger	46
Photography	Betty Marwood	52
Recording	Jack Gates	5
Fossils*		2
Geology*		6
Ichthyology*	* awaiting more members	1
Interpretation*		2
Mammals*		3

If you are interested in joining some of the groups and have not done so to date, please give the Club number (722-3050) a call. If you signed up before March 1, you should have received a letter from me by the time you read this article. If by chance you haven't, please give the Club number a call and make sure your name is on the list.

If you are wondering what the "Interpretation Group" will be doing, here is a summary. This group was suggested by George McGee to set up programs for school groups, etc. on aspects of natural history. These programs could include hikes, slide talks and even displays. So if you are interested in getting this group off the ground, let's hear from you.

Loney Dickson
Vice President

Council Report

Bill Gummer

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS

The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, Ontario, are hosting the Federation of Ontario Naturalists for their 50th Anniversary in London, 22-24 May, 1981, on the campus of the University of Western Ontario. The Council has approved the donation of $100 to the McIlwraith Field Naturalists in support of the republishing of the book *W.E. Saunders - Naturalist*. Dr. Saunders was the first president of the Federation, serving from 1931 to 1943.

PRICE SCHEDULE FOR BACK ISSUES OF *TRAIL & LANDSCAPE*

Finance Committee and the Council have both approved the recommendation of the Publications Committee that prices for back issues of *Trail & Landscape* be reduced somewhat. Henceforth, single issues will be sold for $2. each, and volumes of five issues (six in 1968) will be $5. each (as will be either three or four issues within a volume). Issues of the current year and the two volumes immediately preceding will continue to be sold as before at $2. per copy or $10. per volume.

EDITORSHIP OF *THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST*

The Council received with regret Dr. Lorraine Smith's decision not to accept reappointment as Editor of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. Since 1972 Lorraine has dedicated herself to editing the journal to high standards. The search for a new editor is underway (mid-March).

TWINNING WITH THE TRINIDAD FIELD NATURALISTS

In January the Council agreed to become "twinned" with the Trinidad Field Naturalists. Publications, and perhaps visits, will be exchanged.

EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS

Publications are also being exchanged between our Club and several Canadian clubs, including Catharine Traill Naturalists (Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Montreal), Pickering Naturalists and Toronto Field Naturalists. We expect to participate in exchanges with other naturalists clubs. Recent publications received in exchange are available for perusal at OFNC monthly meetings.

VALUABLE RECORDS TO ARCHIVES

The Club has recently been privileged to obtain the papers

and notes of A.G. Kingston, L. Kingston, J.W. Groves and Hoyes Lloyd. This material has been studied by Joyce Reddoch and Dan Brunton and has now been deposited in the Public Archives.

This experience prompts us to ask members who may have old family records pertaining to natural history, irrespective of any relation to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, to consider allowing them to be search for useful data. If you have such papers and are willing to have them examined, contact the Editor of *Trail & Landscape* or any Council member.

REDEFINITION OF THE OTTAWA DISTRICT

In February the Council passed a motion to redefine the Ottawa District, the official Club study area, as "the area contained within a 50 km radius of the Peace Tower, Parliament Hill". See page 126 of this issue.

Proposed OFNC Excursion to Trinidad & Tobago

It has been suggested by more than one OFNC member that we organize a Club excursion to Trinidad and Tobago for a two-week period towards the end of 1981 or during February 1982. Approximately one week would be spent on each island. In Trinidad, the group would stay at the Asa Wright Nature Centre, and in Tobago at a suitable hotel. At last season's prices, the cost would be about $1300 per person in late November or early December (the tail end of the rainy season) and somewhat more in February. The viability of such a trip is being investigated at the time of writing (mid-March), and details should be available by mid-May. If you are interested, please contact Roger Taylor, 2147 Quinn Crescent, Ottawa K1H 6J5, *as soon as possible* and before June 1. Please give your telephone number and state your preferred dates, if any, and the number of people. We envisage a group of about ten people on a trip emphasizing bird-watching but including other aspects of natural history. In the event that more than ten people show interest, first refusal will be given to those first making contact.

Roger Taylor

BIRDING IN COSTA RICA

If any members are interested in this subject, they may write to Professor Emeritus J. Lorne McDougall, Apt. 605, 91 King Street East, Kingston K7L 2Z8. Professor McDougall and his wife visited Costa Rica in February and March, and they would be pleased to hear from any member seeking information.

Butterflies

some old, some new, some help from you

Ross Layberry, Don Lafontaine and Peter Hall

INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the first checklist of the butterflies of Ottawa in 1968 (Trail & Landscape 2(4): 94-97), much new information has become available. In part this is due to discovery of additional literature records and location of previously overlooked collections. However, most new data are the result of extensive local field work carried out by Ross Layberry, as well as to the increase in the number of naturalists searching for butterflies and reporting their findings. Some of this information was given in an update of the list in 1972 (T&L 6(3): 94-95).

During the past few months, a new expanded checklist has been in preparation that will include: current as well as older, more familiar scientific names; more accurate descriptions of abundance and seasonal occurrence; local foodplant records; habitat descriptions; tips on identification of difficult species; new records; as well as species that could be expected to occur.

Work on the checklist has revealed that many gaps in our knowledge of local butterfly fauna still exist. With the proposed formation of a butterfly study group of the Club, we decided to postpone completion of the list until next fall. This will give interested naturalists the opportunity this summer to contribute information and participate in field projects to fill in the gaps in our knowledge.

Anyone interested in participating in the butterfly study group or in contributing collecting data should call:

Ross Layberry (home 728-9779, work 231-3386)
Peter Hall (home 733-0698, work 995-8963)
Don Lafontaine (home 825-4107, work 995-4502).

Listed below are aspects that are most in need of attention. These are arranged in four groups. The first two groups contain species recorded from Ottawa, but which are poorly known. The first includes 14 species reported in previous lists, the second includes 7 newly-recorded species. The third group contains 6 species that were included in the 1968 or 1972 lists but must remain hypothetical until their local occurrence can be documented. They were included on previous lists based on records from localities outside of the 50 km radius of the Ottawa District,

literature reports, sight records and misidentified specimens. The fourth group includes 9 species that have not been reported but that could be expected to occur.

For convenience, all names below are those used in *A Field Guide to the Butterflies* (A.B. Klots, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1951), the same as were used in the previous checklist. This book is still the best for identification of our local species.

One species must be removed from the Ottawa list. The record of *Eurema nicippe* (T&L 6(3): 94, 1972) was based on a specimen labelled "Ottawa, W. Saunders". Examination of additional Saunders material indicates that this is a collection label and not a collecting label. Since this species has not otherwise been recorded within over a hundred kilometres of Ottawa, it is not likely to occur locally.

REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BUT POORLY KNOWN

BOG FRITILLARY - *Boloria eunomia* Recorded from Mer Bleue about 1900, it is now known in our area only from two bogs in Gatineau County, where it flies in mid-June.

FREIJA FRITILLARY - *Boloria freija* Also recorded from Mer Bleue about 1900, it has not been seen in the Ottawa area since. It should be sought in bogs in mid to late May.

TAWNY CRESCENT - *Phyciodes batesii*
SILVERY CHECKERSPOT - *Melitaea nycteis* Known only from a very few colonies, these are both extremely localised species, although their larval foodplants, various aster species, are not. There do not seem to be any habitat preferences. *Nycteis* is sometimes common one year and absent the next in the same locality.

CHECKERED WHITE - *Pieris protodice* The only records from our area are a few specimens in the Canadian National Collection from Luskville.

EARLY HAIRSTREAK - *Erora laeta*
Rediscovered recently after more than fifty years absence, this species is still known from few locations. It should be looked for, but not expected, in dry, maple-beech woods. (See *T&L* articles by Hall, 14(3): 67-69, 1980, and Layberry, 14(4): 115-116, 1980.)

right: Early Hairstreak
photo by J.D. Lafontaine

GREY HAIRSTREAK - *Strymon melinus*
EASTERN TAILED BLUE - *Everes comintas*
COMMON SOOTY WING - *Pholisora catullus* None of these species has been taken in the Ottawa District in the last fifteen years, although *melinus* has been taken several times recently near Danford Lake just north of the District.

MOTTLED DUSKY WING - *Erynnis martialis* Known only from The Sand Hills at Constance Bay where it flies in May, this species should be sought in other dry, sandy areas. The foodplant is reported to be New Jersey Tea, *Ceanothus americana*.

ROADSIDE SKIPPER - *Amblyscirtes vialis*
PEPPER AND SALT SKIPPER - *Amblyscirtes hegon* These two species are extremely local and are known from few colonies. *Hegon* is usually found in woody areas, but *vialis* shows no obvious habitat preferences. Both fly in early June.

Roadside Skipper
photo by J.D.L.

BUCKEYE - *Precis lavinia*
LITTLE SULPHUR - *Eurema lisa* These are common southern species which periodically expand their ranges northward and occasionally reach our area.

NEWLY RECORDED SPECIES

APPALACHIAN EYED BROWN - *Lethe appalachia* Until 1970, this species was confused with the Eyed Brown, *Lethe eurydice*. The illustration of *eurydice* in Klots is in fact *appalachia*. The illustrations below show clearly the main differences. In addition, *appalachia* is violet-brown in colour while *eurydice* is yellowish-brown. *Eurydice* flies in open sedge marshes while *appalachia* occurs only in sedgy areas at the edges of woods in July. *Appalachia* is at its northern limit in the Ottawa District and is known from only a few colonies in our area. Any Eyed Brown taken in a woodland situation should be collected and reported.

Eyed Brown

Appalachian Eyed Brown

Coenonympha nipisiquit (As yet no common name) This species, which flies in August and September, is possibly only a partial second generation of the Inornate Ringlet, *C. inornata*. *Nipisiquit* is widespread, though uncommon to rare in the Ontario part of the District. It seems to be absent in Quebec. It should be sought wherever the very common *C. inornata* is found in June.

OLYMPIA - *Euchloe olympia* This species, which has recently been expanding its range eastward, is now known from six places in the Ottawa District. It flies in May and is always found close to its larval foodplant, Tower Mustard, *Arabis glabra*.

BROAD WINGED SKIPPER - *Poanes viator*
MULBERRY WING - *Poanes massasoit*
TWO SPOTTED SKIPPER - *Atrytone bimacula*
DION SKIPPER - *Atrytone dion*
These four skippers are confined to small roadside patches of certain kinds of sedges (*Carex*), as yet unidentified, but easily recognizable. Although this restriction should make the early stages easier to find, the larvae are very poorly known. The larvae of the northern subspecies of *viator* have never been described. The larvae should be sought in known colonies in late May or early June, the adults in July.

REPORTED IN LITERATURE BUT NEED TO BE DOCUMENTED

HOARY COMMA - *Polygonia gracilis* A boreal forest species found north of the Ottawa District, the one previously recorded specimen was in poor condition and was probably misidentified. It should be looked for in the northern edge of the District in dry, open forests.

EDWARD'S HAIRSTREAK - *Strymon edwardsii* Although recorded from the District, no specimens are known to exist. It should be sought in early July near oak trees, the probable local larval foodplant, associating with other hairstreaks.

SAEPIOLUS BLUE - *Plebeius saepiolus* It has been found in dry, sandy areas just north of the Ottawa District, near Kazabazua in June, and quite likely will be found further south.

SLEEPY DUSKY WING - *Erynnis brizo* This skipper is a southern species which was reported from the Ottawa District but was confused with the very common *Erynnis icelus* with which it flies in late May and in June. The wing pattern differences given by Klots are not reliable, so that the leg characteristics and gentialia must be examined for definite identification.

LAURENTIAN SKIPPER - *Hesperia laurentina* One specimen was recorded from Gatineau Park in late August, but it cannot be found. The species should be sought in August and September in open clearings in boreal forest habitat.

LITTLE GLASSY WING - *Polites verna* Usually found well to the south of Ottawa, a specimen of this skipper was examined and released near Meach Lake on June 27, 1970. It could easily be confused with the more common Dun Skipper, *Atrytone ruricola*, or the Broken Dash, *Wallengrenia otho*, but flies perhaps a little earlier than they do.

NOT YET RECORDED BUT COULD OCCUR

MACOUN'S ARCTIC - *Oeneis macounii* A subarctic and Canadian zone species of open, dry pine forest, it has been recorded in Algonquin Park. Adults should be sought in June in northern parts of the Ottawa District, but only in even-numbered years.

PURPLE LESSER FRITILLARY - *Boloria titania* This species has also been recorded from Algonquin Park, but only in bogs.

HACKBERRY BUTTERFLY - *Asterocampa celtis* This southern species breeds as far north as Montreal. It should be looked for near its larval foodplant, Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*. For the distribution of Hackberry in Ottawa, see Brunton (T&L 5(3): 68-75, 1971).

FROSTED ELFIN - *Incisalia irus* A rare species always associated with lupines, it has been recorded on escaped lupines near Chaffeys Locks, north of Kingston, and may turn up along the Gatineau River where escaped lupines are commonly found.

WESTERN PINE ELFIN - *Incisalia eryphon* This western species has been found in boreal forest areas in the Algonquin and La Vérendrye Parks near pine trees, the larval foodplant. (See Layberry, Canadian Field-Naturalist 89: 316, 1975.)

BOG ELFIN - *Incisalia lanoraieensis* This species has been found only in black spruce bogs in Quebec and Maine. It could turn up in the Mer Bleue and other bogs in the District in late May.

OLIVE HAIRSTREAK - *Mitoura gryneus* It has been found just north of Kingston, near its larval foodplant, Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*. It should be sought in early June on rocky outcrops in the Gatineau Park where Red Cedar occurs.

DORCAS COPPER - *Lycaena dorcas* This western species has been found in the Muskoka area, in July, near its larval foodplant, Shrubby Cinquefoil, *Potentilla fruticosa*. Several colonies of this shrub occur on the shores of the Ottawa River west of Ottawa.

WEST VIRGINIA WHITE - *Pieris virginiensis* Ontario's only protected butterfly species, it has been found in Frontenac County. It might occur in early May in rich, deciduous woods where the larval foodplant, Toothwort, *Dentaria*, grows.

This Land

and then the trees mirrored in the water
bounced from beam to beam of light
a forest seen and felt, jutting outwards
spiky arms pointing the way to nowhere
and the spines of porcupines
angled in the forks of trees
bits of blackness hard among the needles
and for those with eyes and ears
woodpeckers chipping, searching
balanced stiffly on rigid tails
driving their long bills deeper
among the reeds the redwings scream
piercing silence with insistent cries
and everywhere the lines of prison bars
in bush, in brush, straight and narrow

and for softness ..... search the skies

Linda Jeays

Recent Bird Sightings

Mark Gawn

A typical sight this past January was that of six shivering Philadelphia birders stamping frozen feet, patiently waiting for a look at one of Ottawa's famous Gyrfalcons. February brought welcome relief from January's icy blasts. By the end of this month most of the snow had melted, inviting an unnaturally early spring migration. Hundreds of singing Red-winged Blackbirds, two weeks early, heralded the early arrival of spring.

In contrast to last winter, there was an extensive freeze up which forced most waterfowl out of the area. Manotick as usual hosted hordes of Black Duck and Mallard along with a slew of varied hybrids. A pair of Barrow's Goldeneye could frequently be found at Parc Brébeuf in Hull. By February the female was sporting a bright orange bill. Two foolhardy Canada Geese wintered at the mouth of Watt's Creek; even more unusual was the flock heard south of the city in late February. A very early Wood Duck was at Shirleys Bay by the end of the month; at the same time a single Red-necked Grebe had turned up at Deschênes Rapids, also early. Both Herring and Glaucous Gull put in an appearance in January. By February 22 a flock of 17 Ring-Billed Gulls had established itself at Remic Rapids.

An influx of Willow Ptarmigan well north of the region made the report of two in Ottawa's West End very intriguing. Record numbers of Gray Partridge were about throughout the winter, the Central Experimental Farm being an excellent spot at which to find them.

The birds of the season were without doubt the Gyrfalcons. Three of these magnificent northern falcons frequented Rock Dove infested areas of the city for all of January and the first week of February. For the early part of the winter the best spot was the old rock quarry; later on, Woodroffe complex of the Experimental Farm became very productive. Lucky observers were able to watch them make kills. The usual prey was Rock Dove, but this was occasionally supplemented by Gray Partridge. Spectacular views of two "Gyrs" playing were recorded several times. Play, often accompanied by shrill screams, involved high speed chases and stooping at one another. The ever abundant Rock Dove had more to fear, however, than just Gyrfalcons. Two Cooper's Hawks also frequented the Woodroffe Farm complex, where they became proficient at taking the Rock Doves. Northern Goshawks were present in good - for Goshawk - numbers and could usually be encountered in suitable areas.

Fields well populated by voles were guarded by Kestrels, Snowy Owls or Buteos (Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks). By early February a concentration of Snowy Owls had built up in the fields around the Woodroffe Farm complex; up to six could be seen at one time. Other species of owl were less well represented. At least one Great Gray Owl north of Aylmer successfully eluded most observers who looked for it. The Hawk Owl observed last December near Quyon went unreported in January. Only one Boreal Owl was reported and that east of the District in Vankleek Hill. Saw Whet Owls seemed to be doing quite well; most known areas were supporting several calling birds. Barred and Screech Owls were very local as usual.

Many tardy out-of-town birders, hoping to catch a glimpse of a Gyrfalcon, had to content themselves with our other "northern specialties". Both Black-backed and Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers could easily be located at several locations, the most convenient of which was a stand of dead Elms near the CBC building on Lanark Avenue. Large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings roamed about the city consuming vast quantities of Mountain Ash and Buckthorn berries. In similar habitat small flocks of Pine Grosbeaks could often be located. Boreal Chickadees were easily spotted at the Pink Road OFNC feeder, but the Gray Jays at the same spot managed to elude most observers. One species which was virtually absent this winter was Northern Shrike. While a few were spotted at feeders, most of the usually productive areas were shrike-less.

Cardinals were singing cheerfully in February. This is a hardy species that can survive the worst that Ottawa winters can throw at it as long as the food holds out. The several Carolina Wrens that were reported last year went unseen and unheard in the period; January's cold snap may have finished them off. A Flicker, two Rufous-sided Towhees and all four regular Blackbird species (Red-winged, Rusty, Grackle and Cowbird) headed a long list of summer species tempted to venture a winter in Ottawa. Bill Clark's personal House Finch continued to haunt his backyard. Given a few years this rapidly expanding species may become a regular feature of our birdlife. Somebody's pet European Goldfinch accompanied several American Goldfinches, scarce this year, at a West End feeder. Another interesting exotic reported was a Chukar, which apparently survived the winter.

The Gatineau was virtually birdless in late January; even finches, usually a mainstay, were few and far between. By contrast, small flocks of Common Redpolls could frequently be located in the city, their ranks occasionally graced by the presence of a rarer Hoary Redpoll. A feeder in Stittsville boasted one of the very few flocks of Pine Siskin in the area. Snow Buntings and Horned Larks could frequently be encountered along roadsides or at manure piles, and by February the Larks were often in full song. A flock of about twenty Lapland Longspurs frequented the scenic Nepean Dump throughout the winter. Ravens are doing very well locally; about twenty could be seen throughout the period at

the Cook Road dump north of Alymer. Amazing was the report of 75 at a dump west of the District at Calabogie. An old nesting site in the Gatineau, usurped by Great Horned Owls several years ago, has been regained by a pair of Ravens.

The Ottawa District

The Council of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has now formally changed the radius of the Ottawa District from 30 miles (inner circle) to 50 kilometres (outer circle) and, for the first time, has defined a point centre to the circle. And so, the Ottawa District is the area contained within a circle of 50 kilometres radius and centred on the Peace Tower, Parliament Hill.

The District is divided almost equally by the east-west flowing Ottawa River. On the north is the Province of Quebec, dominated by la Communauté régionale de l'Outaouais, and on the south is the Province of Ontario, dominated by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.

Bog Aster

(Aster nemoralis)

rediscovered in the Ottawa District

Daniel F. Brunton

Late in September 1980 I was paddling about Ramsay Lake in western Gatineau Park in search of unusual aquatic plants. The excursion was more an excuse to get in one last bit of canoeing before the inevitable approach of winter shut down such satisfying recreation for another year. The sought-after aquatics eluded me (for now!), but, almost as an afterthought, I collected a specimen of the Bog Aster (*Aster nemoralis* Ait.) that was growing commonly on the floating bog mat along the northern shore of the lake. The plant was in rather poor shape, being long past flowering, but Bog Aster is a very distinctive species at any season. A single flowering head (occasionally two or three) topping an unbranched, toadflax-like non-flowering portion is unique amongst bog mat species in this part of the world.

Being familiar with this species as a common element of bog mats and acid shores in the Algonquin Park area (Crins 1977) and Parry Sound - Muskoka Districts of southcentral Ontario, I assumed it to be similarly common in the Quebec portion of the Ottawa District. Loney Dickson, who had joined us for the outing and who is also a veteran of Algonquin area botanizing, felt likewise. You can imagine our surprise, therefore, on reading the status of this species in the Ottawa District in Gillett and White (1978) as "Rare; old record, Cascades".

An examination of the collections at the National Museum of Canada (CAN) and Agriculture Canada (DAO) Herbaria confirmed this statement of status. The only previous record in the District is based on a collection (now in CAN) from "Strachan's Swamp, 2 miles east of Cascades, Gatineau River ... August 13, 1903". The collector? Who else ... John Macoun!

I was unable to locate a reference to "Strachan's Swamp" in the Cascade area on modern topographic maps (Dept. of Energy, Mines and Resources 1977) or by reference to early literature (Gillett 1980). Joyce Reddoch (pers. comm.) was also unsuccessful in her attempts to find a firm reference to the site. There is, however, a swamp and/or boggy area at one end of an unnamed wetland complex (beaver pond?) two miles due east of Cascades that is likely the site of "Strachan's Swamp".

By referring to Macoun's original 1903 field collection book (which is preserved at the National Herbarium), I was able to find other specimens collected at the same place and time and was able to reconstruct his activities in that period.

Macoun spent much of the summer of 1903 in and around Wakefield, the first summer in thirty years during which he was not exploring some distant corner of the country (Macoun 1922). He collected extensively in the Wakefield area during the summer. On August 12 he was in Wakefield, collecting around the village, as indicated by his collection of Dock-leaved Knotweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) "...about the buildings". On the thirteenth he took the train to Cascades (for example, Ball Mustard (*Neslia paniculata*) collected "... along the railway, Cascades", and Bitter Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) collected "... roadside, Cascades and Wakefield") and crossed the Gatineau River, presumably by boat, to the eastern shore (for example, Gray Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*) collected "... along Gatineau River opposite Cascades"). He then walked the two miles to Strachan's Swamp (or Strachan's Lake as it was named on some labels, for example, Grass Pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)) where he collected "... in the bog". I presume he returned that day, as he was collecting in Wakefield again on August 14 (for example, Tall White-lettuce (*Prenanthes altissima*)).

Pike (1970) illustrates the range (eastern-boreal) of the Bog Aster. The southern limit of range in this area appears to be at about the latitude of Kingston, Ontario. An examination of the CAN and DAO herbaria suggests that it is a very rare plant in this area. I noted only one specimen south of La Verendrye Park in western Quebec (the 1903 Macoun collection from Cascades) and one old specimen (in DAO) from the Alfred Bog in eastern Ontario.

The Ramsay Lake specimen constitutes the first record of this species in Gatineau Park (J.M. Gillett, pers. comm.) as well as the only modern record in the Ottawa District. Despite this, I suspect it to be more common than the records indicate. Perhaps, being a species of bog mats (not the most accessible of habitats) and late-flowering, it has been overlooked in the District. I would *expect* to find Bog Aster in the Gatineau Hills wherever a floating *Sphagnum* mat rings quiet, acidic Shield lakes. It is typically found with Pitcher-plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia* and *D. intermedia*), Beakrush (*Rhynchospora* spp.), sedges (*Carex lasiocarpa* and others) and Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*).

The label data on the 1980 collection read as follows: 45° 36' N, 76° 06' W; N shore of Ramsey (sic) Lake, Eardley Twp., Gatineau Park, Gatineau Co, Québec. floating bog mat at lakeshore with *Cladium mariscoides, Drosera rotundifolia* in *Sphagnum*. Common. D.F. Brunton 2775. 28 September 1980. (CAN, DFB)

Ramsay Lake is known for its locally rare vascular plants, including Spatulate-leaved Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), Grass Pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*), Humped Bladderwort (*Utricularia gibba*), Horned Bladdernut (*U. cornuta*) and Mountain Clubmoss (*Lycopodium selago*) (National Capital Commission 1976, Brunton 1973). It would certainly seem to warrant additional investigation. So too would other bog-rimmed lakes in the Gatineau, especially in the late summer and early fall. Additional records of Bog Aster and other bog species significant in the Ottawa District would surely result.

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Pike, R.B. 1970. *Evidence for the hybrid status of* Aster *x* blakei *(Porter) House*. Rhodora 72: 401-436.

T&L Circulation

Circulation of the March-April issue was as follows: a total of 1057 copies were mailed, 1021 of them to members, subscribing libraries and other institutions in Canada. Thirty-six copies were sent outside Canada, 32 of them to the United States. The cost of postage for that mailing was $47.96 (second class) for the 56-page issue.

Bog Bedstraw

(Galium labradoricum)

new to the Ottawa District

Daniel F. Brunton

Bedstraws (Galium) are low, mostly sprawling plants with tiny leaves that are situated in whorls along numerous square-sided stems. Very small white flowers occur abundantly within the intertwined maze of stems that usually makes up a plant. A number of species occur in the District; they are found widely in habitats as various as bogs, meadows, hardwood forests and river shores.

In the summer of 1980, I collected a small bedstraw while conducting a floral and faunal inventory of the Shirleys Bay area (Brunton 1980). The collection was made near Innis Point, long known for its rare plants (White 1979). After checking a variety of literature and with the assistance of Dr. Clarence Frankton, I was able to identify the plant as Bog Bedstraw (*Galium labradoricum* (Wieg.) Wieg.). The species is described in Gillett and White (1978) as being very rare in the District. Its inclusion on the checklist was only on the basis of an old specimen collected June 8, 1897, by John Macoun and simply labelled "swamps. Ottawa". After some investigation, I was able to determine that the specimen of Macoun's had been incorrectly labelled. He was, in fact, in western Alberta in early June 1897 (e.g. a collection at CAN of *Draba cana*, June 11, 1897 (Paton 1978)). Further, the "Ottawa" specimen of Bog Bedstraw has the same habitat and initial identification as one from "Elbow River, Rocky Mountains" collected July 17, 1887, and has a nearly identical "Macoun collection number" on the top of the label (20675 and 20677, respectively) which is usually a sign of duplicates by Macoun (or at least specimens collected virtually together). Clearly, the "Ottawa" specimen was a duplicate of the "Elbow River" collections that became separated from the original material and was accidentally labelled as originating from Ottawa. I have noticed similar errors on Macoun collections that were supposedly from Algonquin Park (Brunton 1979). Subsequent investigations determined that he had been in Ottawa on the day of these supposed Algonquin collections; it appears that his specimens simply became mixed during processing.

Bog Bedstraw is a northern species of calcareous soil, occur-

ring across boreal Canada from the North West Territories to Newfoundland (Scoggan 1979). It is common in suitable fen areas of northern Ontario (Baldwin 1958) but is rare in areas of acidic soil and/or south of the boreal region of the province. In the south it is found only in wet thickets and along shorelines in the southern Georgian Bay - Lake Simcoe and Ottawa areas (Brunton 1980).

The Ottawa station is found at the edge of the relict prairie community described by White (1979) and Brunton (1980) and is associated with a number of other rare northern calcicoles (calcium-loving plants) such as Shore Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum confine*), Crawe's Sedge (*Carex crawei*) and Compressed Spikerush (*Eleocharis compressa*).

The label data for this record of Bog Bedstraw is as follows: 45° 23' N, 75° 53.5' W; 1 km W of Innis Point, S shore Ottawa River, Shirleys Bay, March Tp, Ottawa-Carleton, Ontario; open, wet limestone rivershore under *Salix* bushes with *Eleocharis* spp., *Spartina pectinata* & *Lythrum salicaria*; small patch (in flower). D.F. Brunton 2433. 10 July 1980. (Can, DFB).

To complicate the matter still further (!!), it now appears that there is a valid collection of this species dating from before 1980 but not included in the Gillett and White (1978) study. Late in 1980, I noticed a specimen at the DAO herbarium (Biosystematics Research Institute, Canada Department of Agriculture) that had been collected by the indomitable W.G. Dore in 1970 and which had been determined as *"Galium labradoricum ??"* by R.J. Moore of DAO. The location ...? Innis Point, of course!

In any case, whichever specimen was or was not correctly identified and in whatever order, Bog Bedstraw constitutes an interesting and rare second, then first, then second again (sort of) record for the Ottawa District.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to the curators of the DAO and Can herbaria, Bill Cody and Jack Gillett, respectively, for permission to examine those collections and for their assistance during the process, and to Clarence Frankton for his assistance in the original determination. The specimen was collected while I was under contract to the National Capital Commission, providing life sciences inventory services in the Shirleys Bay study area.

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Taken Any Good Shots Lately?

If you have some good natural history slides or black and white photographs, the Club's Education and Publicity Committee would like to get copies of them.

We are trying to amass a collection of material covering our various activities because the Club is often asked to participate with displays at conferences and shows and to supply speakers to meetings of special interest groups.

When you're out with your camera this summer, please keep the Club in mind. When you click off that perfect shot for yourself, why not repeat it for display or lecture purposes?

Send your duplicate slides or black and white prints to Betty Marwood, Box 176, R.R. 3, Manotick, KOA 2NO, telephone number 692-4195.

Birdathon

The Macoun Club is running a team this year in the Birdathon, which is scheduled for mid-May. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is not fielding a team this year.

Upper Duck and Lower Duck Islands*

Stephen J. Darbyshire

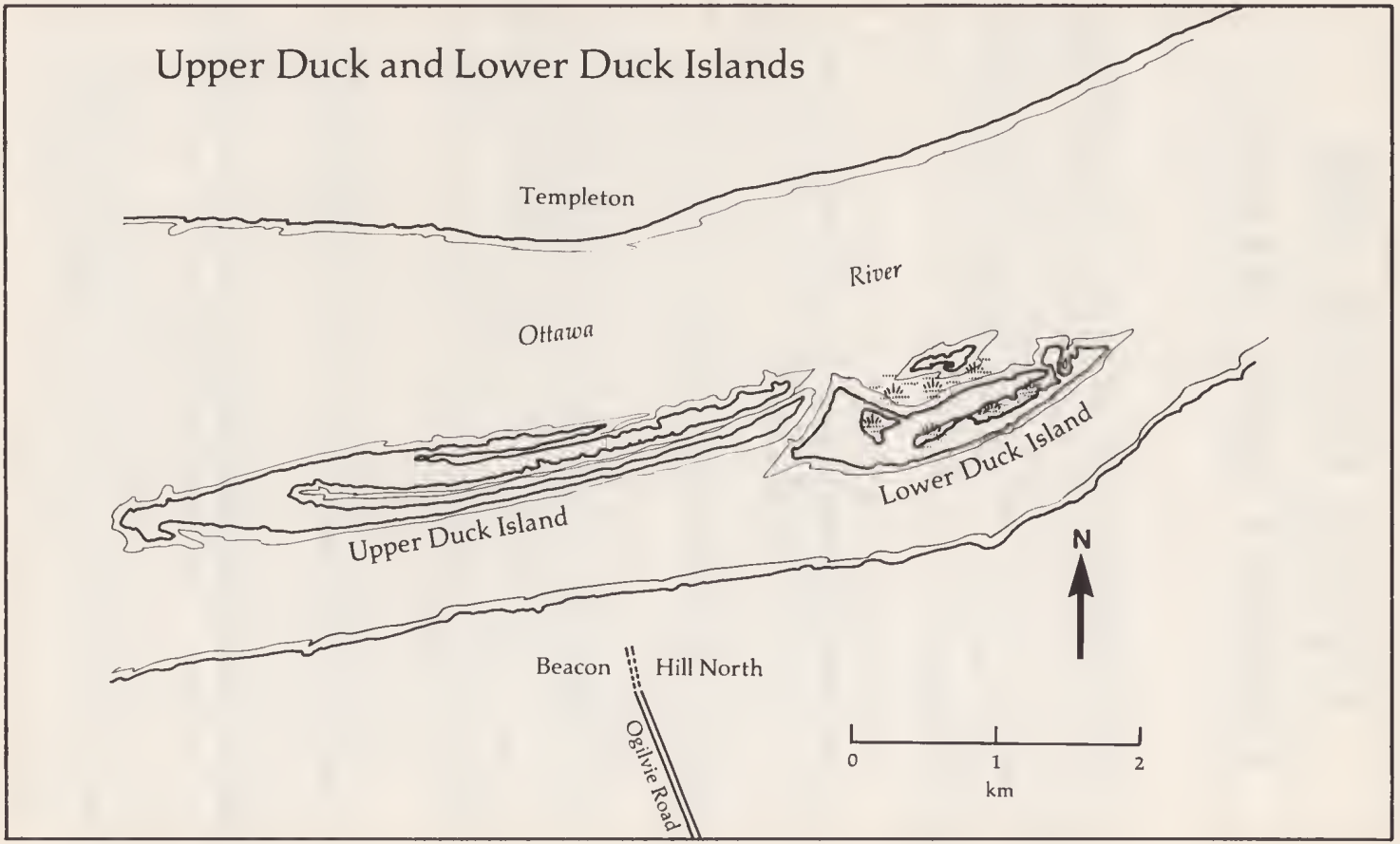
The Duck Islands lie in the Ottawa River north of Beacon Hill North and south of Templeton, Quebec, just downstream from Kettle Island. (See the last issue of *T&L*, pages 68-73.) Unlike Kettle Island, the Duck Islands are on the Ontario side of the provincial boundary in the City of Gloucester, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton. Upper Duck Island is owned by the City of Gloucester, and Lower Duck Island is owned by the National Capital Commission.

The islands were formed by clay and sand deposited by the river around limestone bedrock outcrops. Upper Duck Island consists mostly of two 1.5 km long ridges connected only at their western end. The ridges are separated by a deep backwater. On Lower Duck Island the limestone bedrock rises to about 8 m above the summer level at the western end. Alluvial deposits downstream from the outcrop give the island a somewhat elongate shape. Both islands are almost completely flooded during the spring.

The water is quite shallow around Lower Duck Island, especially along the north shore where, in the relatively calm water, sediments and nutrients are deposited. By late summer the lush aquatic vegetation along the northeast shore has covered an area half the size of Lower Duck Island itself. These marshes support much aquatic life. Leopard Frogs, Green Frogs and Bullfrogs are common. They provide food for other animals such as Garter Snakes, Painted Turtles and Creat Blue Heron, and fishes such as Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass and Northern Pike.

In addition to this marsh, there are also two marshy ponds on Lower Duck Island. I found the pond at the eastern end to be of considerable interest. In the middle of the pond is a colony of Water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*), a woody herb which is locally common in the Ottawa District. It grows in water up to 2 m deep, although it may grow on land at the edge of a body of water. The 1-4 m long shoots have whorls of three or four leaves above the water. Growing around the edges of the pond in the shallow water is a great variety of marsh plants. One of the emergent plants in this pond, Eastern Manna Grass *(Glyceria sep-*

**This is the fifth article based on the inventories carried out by the National Capital Commission in 1979 (Dickson and Darbyshire 1979). All plant species names and status are as given in Gillett and White 1978.*


Upper Duck and Lower Duck Islands
Templeton
River
Ottawa
Lower Duck Island
Upper Duck Island
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Beacon Hill North
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tentrionalis A.S. Hitchc.), had not been recorded in the Ottawa District before. It is common in southwestern Ontario but reaches its northern limits in Ontario in the Ottawa area (Dore and McNeill 1980).

The wet forests of the Duck Islands are dominated by Hybrid Maple (*Acer saccharinum* x *A. rubrum*). These hybrid trees are common in low woodlands along the Ottawa River (Dore 1967). Their leaves are intermediate in appearance; they are more deeply notched than Red Maple and are greenish underneath without the silvery colour of Silver Maple. Overall the tree gives the impression of a Silver Maple without the silver. Other trees associated with Hybrid Maple in wetter areas are Black Ash, American Elm, Bitternut Hickory and Red Ash. On the ridges where the soil is drier, the common trees are Basswood, Trembling Aspen, Large-toothed Aspen and Hackberry. Black Cherry, Bur Oak, Butternut and White Birch can be found in lower numbers in the various forest habitats. Lower Duck Island has few Aspen because they are held in favour by the Beavers, but you can still see many stumps.

Thick growths of Ostrich Fern and, to a lesser extent, Lady Fern occur on both islands. The colonies extend through much of the forest as well as the open areas that receive full sunlight all day long. The colonies are often so dense that only a few climbing plants such as Cow Vetch, Groundnut, Hog Peanut and Bit-

a view of Upper Duck Island during spring flooding in early May
photo by Joyce Reddoch

*Hackberry (***Celtis occidentalis***) is widespread in northeastern North America from the Dakotas to New York. In Canada it is found very locally in southern Manitoba and Quebec; in Ontario it is common only in the Carolinian Forest Zone along the north shores of Lake Erie and western Lake Ontario. There are local outlying populations near Belleville, Gananoque and Ottawa.*

*Hackberry is a medium-sized tree, usually 10-20 m high and 48-60 cm diameter at breast height, although it can grow much larger. The bark is a grayish colour and has prominent, hard, rounded, corky ridges. The characteristic ridging of Hackberry bark is distinctive. Black Ash (***Fraxinus nigra***) may develop similar ridges, but they are larger and softer and can easily be rubbed off by hand. Ashes have compound, opposite leaves, while Hackberry has simple, alternate leaves. The Hackberry leaf is also distinctive among Ottawa District trees. It has a stalk about 1 cm long, an assymetric cordate base, and many small teeth along the edges that point towards the very slender, tapered tip. Small green flowers appear in the spring with the new leaves. The small, rounded, reddish-purple fruit matures in the fall and is sometimes persistent in winter. The fruits are borne solitarily on long stalks at the junctions of the leaf stalks.*

tersweet manage to work through the thick frond canopy. I have seen few areas with such lush growths of Ostrich Ferns.

In the mid-fifties The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was concerned about saving what was thought to be the last native Hackberry tree in the Ottawa District. This tree was along the Rideau River beside the Bronson Street bridge. Now, our knowledge of the distribution of Hackberry in the area has expanded. In his 1971 article in *T&L*, Dan Brunton mapped the sixteen sites of Hackberry known at that time. Since then several new colonies have been found downstream from the city, including those on the Duck Islands (Reddoch 1978, 1979), Kettle Island and Petrie Island (Billington and Johannsen 1976). The colonies of Hackberry on the Ottawa River islands are by far the most significant known to date because of their large size and because they are in relatively undisturbed, natural habitats.

Until last year Upper Duck Island was dotted with rough cottages; however, Gloucester has managed to evict the squatters and their belongings. Much greater damage to the island is caused by large vehicles used by the Canadian International Paper Company to remove logs left by flood waters. The machines are so big that large tracts of trees have been "bulldozed" just so that they can move about. Fortunately Lower Duck Island has not been abused in this way.

Both the Duck Islands are outstanding natural areas in the Ottawa region; their important vegetation communities are fragile and must be protected. Amendment 20 to the Regional Official Plan of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton provides the potential for protecting the islands by designating them Environmental Areas - Class I.

I hope you will be able to join me on a visit to the islands on July 5. (See *Coming Events* for further details.)

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SIGNIFICANT VASCULAR PLANTS OF UPPER AND LOWER DUCK ISLANDS*

	Common Name	*Scientific Name*	
u	Meadow Horsetail	*Equisetum pratense*	*B*
r	Floating Bur-reed	*Sparganium fluctuans*	*B*
s	Knotted Pondweed	*Potamogeton nodosus*	*U*
s	Perfoliate Pondweed	*P. perfoliatus*	*U*
s	Flat-stem Pondweed	*P. zosteriformis*	*L*
	**Eastern Manna Grass	*Glyceria septentrionalis*	*L*
s	Northern Panic Grass	*Panicum boreale*	*L*
s	Aquatic Sedge	*Carex aquatilis*	*L*
u	Lenticular Sedge	*C. lenticularis*	*L*
u	Stiff Sedge	*C. stricta*	*L*
u	Inflated Sedge	*C. vesicaria*	*L*
s	Three-way Sedge	*Dulichium arundinaceum*	*B*
u	Carrion-flower	*Smilax herbacea*	*B*
u	Cottonwood	*Populus deltoides*	*B*
u	Blue-beech	*Carpinus caroliniana*	*L*
s	Hackberry	*Celtis occidentalis*	*B*
u	False Nettle	*Boehmeria cylindrica*	*L*
u	Moonseed	*Menispermum canadense*	*B*
u	Marsh Cinquefoil	*Potentilla palustris*	*U*
s	Groundnut	*Apios americana*	*B*
u	Prickly-ash	*Xanthoxylum americanum*	*B*
u	Small-flowered Evening Primrose	*Oenothera parviflora*	*L*
s	Indian Hemp	*Apocynum cannabinum*	*L*
u	Buttonbush	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*	*L*
u	Common Elder	*Sambucus canadensis*	*L*
u	Highbush-cranberry	*Viburnum opulus* var. *americana*	*L*

r	rare	*s*	sparse	*u*	uncommon
B	both	*U*	Upper Duck I.	*L*	Lower Duck I.

* *Nomenclature and status in the Ottawa District follow Gillett and White 1978.*

***first record for the Ottawa District*

The contents of this article do not necessarily reflect the policies of the National Capital Commission.

Dickson, H.L. and S.J. Darbyshire. 1979. *Biological inventories of 24 areas in the Ottawa District*, prepared under contract for the National Capital Commission, Ottawa

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The Protection of Natural Areas in Ontario

Proceedings of a conference held on April 12th, 1980

PROGRESS AND ISSUES - G.R. Francis, University of Waterloo

PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE AREAS: THE NATURE RESERVE SYSTEM - T.J. Beechey, R.J. Davidson, Ministry of Natural Resources

PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES - M. Singleton, Federation of Ontario Naturalists

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREAS IN OTTAWA-CARLETON - J. Reddoch, Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS - P.F. Eagles, University of Waterloo

A MATRIX OF VEGETATIONAL COMMUNITIES TO EVALUATE THE REPRESENTATIVE AND RARE IN ONTARIO - P.F. Maycock, Univeristy of Toronto

THE RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES - P.M. Catling, University of Toronto

FAUNAL INVENTORIES OF NATURAL AREAS - C.A. Campbell, G.R. Francis

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS - S.W. Barrett, York U.

THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO - a panel discussion, moderator J. Cranmer-Byng

Copies of the Proceedings may be obtained by sending $6.50 (cheque) to Suzanne Barrett, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario M3J 2R2

Additional Records of Stinkpot Turtle in the Ottawa District

Daniel F. Brunton

In the recent revision of the status of turtles in the Ottawa District (Cook 1981), the Stinkpot Turtle is identified from only two locations. These two sites (near Kemptville on the Rideau River and at Pakenham on the Mississippi River) are widely separated. Cook (1981) and Conant (1975) agree that the species may easily be overlooked as this tiny turtle rarely comes out of the water. I have recently been made aware of two additional locations where this rare turtle has been observed, and these are described below. One site is on the Mississippi River and the other is on the Rideau River.

During the early 1970s, Paul Keddy observed three or four Stinkpot Turtles each summer in the Mississippi River between Carleton Place and Appleton (P.A. Keddy pers. comm. 1980). He observed these animals while conducting private herpetological

investigations in that area. He also noted nesting of the Stinkpot Turtle (possibly the only such observations in the Ottawa District) on Glen Isle near Almonte - a site now slated for housing development.

On October 8, 1980, George P. Brunton captured a single, young Stinkpot Turtle behind his home off Southwick Drive on the west bank of the Rideau River, 3 km south of Manotick. He found the turtle, which measured only 45 mm in length, drifting about in the rainwater accumulated in his moored motorboat. The turtle had somehow entered the boat despite smooth metal walls about 30 cm above the river surface and the absence of overhanging vegetation. Annette Brunton had observed a Great Blue Heron fishing along that portion of the river shore on a daily basis and a Green Heron doing similarly less regularly. She suggests that the turtle may have been accidentally dropped into the boat by a hunting heron (or gull?). Certainly it is hard to explain the animal's presence in the boat without involving some assistance of this nature.

Since mid-October I have kept the Manotick turtle in a terrarium at my home in the company of a large Tiger Salamander and a Yellow-spotted Salamander. To date (mid-March 1981) there has been no apparent conflict, each animal going its own way around, by or over (!) the others with no apparent concern.

I initially fed the turtle goldfish that had been incapacitated. (It was quite incapable of capturing a healthy fish, even within the confines of the small pool provided.) For several

months now, however, it has been accepting the fare provided the salamanders, catfood offered on a teaspoon. The salamanders long ago recognized the spoon as a sign of food and vigorously follow it about the terrarium. The turtle has similarly "fixed" on the spoon now and will pursue it.

The turtle seems unable to swallow above water, as suggested by Boardman (1944). It clearly prefers to take food in the water and, if this is not possible, will transport the food item back to the pool. Here, it tears the item into bite-sized chunks by holding the food in its jaws and tearing it away with its front feet. Then it swallows the chunks underwater.

"Southwick", as the Manotick turtle has come to be known, contradicts the Stinkpot Turtle's reputation for being "notoriously ill-tempered" (Smith 1961). At no time has it been aggressive towards me or the salamanders, although it will nip a salamander foot or tail left trailing in the pool during feeding periods. It also has never demonstrated the strong odour that gives the species its names, Stinkpot or Musk Turtle (Froom 1971).

These two additional sites for Stinkpot Turtle in the Ottawa District fit within the pattern already established and help to fill it out somewhat. It may well be that this tiny, obscure turtle is not so rare as it is inconspicuous. An observation on the Ottawa River would certainly help to support this.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to my parents, George and Annette Brunton of Manotick for holding onto "Southwick" at some effort (!) until I could pick it up and for sharing their observations with me, and to Dr. P.A. Keddy of the University of Guelph for describing his experiences with the species in the Ottawa District. Stephen Darbyshire provided valuable information concerning the maintenance of the turtle in captivity and his advice is appreciated. Finally, my thanks to Joyce Reddoch for the photographs of the Manotick specimen.

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Counterpoint of Spring

the far off musical honking of geese
the plunging slap of a beaver's tail
the rush of wind through the pines
the hollow thwack of a Pileated Woodpecker's search for food
a ripple peeping from spring frogs
the agitated scoldings of a red squirrel demanding that all
that walks be put in its place
a robin's piping call on the air
the clip and click of Phoebes' beaks as they catch insects
on the wing
the motor deep drumming of a grouse
the mourning long drawn call of the Mourning Dove
the rapid fire tree drilling of a sapsucker
the whirring, branch clipping flight of the startled grouse
the slight rustle of dry grass as a garter snake slips
between strands of snow flattened stems
the chirring of Juncos as their tail bands flash from tree
to tree
the warblers high flutings in the evergreens
the whistling wings of the softly elegant beauty spotted
Mourning Dove
the tiny, so tiny rustlings of new things growing toward the
sun
the coarse raucous call of the crows cutting through the soft
twitterings of Ruby Crowned Kinglets
the muted, muffled toned, bell sounds from far off sheep
the high pitched squeak of a solid tree trunk rubbing
another in the wind
the buzz of a fly ended by a quick snap of irritated collie
jaws
still it wasn't all heard or seen
a collie's ears cocked
heard and knew far more than I

Claudia Smith

The Bird Records of J.W. Groves

Daniel F. Brunton

Dr. J. Walton Groves, in addition to enjoying a full and distinguished career as a mycologist with Agriculture Canada, was an active leader in OFNC affairs for many years. He served on Council, was Club Vice-president between 1948 and 1950, and served as OFNC President in 1951 and 1952. Until his death in May of 1970, he remained active in Club activities and was well known as an excellent all-round naturalist and birder.

Through the good graces of his wife, Dr. Naomi Jackson Groves, herself an active birder and OFNC member for many years, the ornithological records of Walton Groves have been made available to the Club. They are to be deposited in the National Archives of Canada, thus adding to the impressive and steadily growing collection of OFNC materials preserved there.

And a valuable addition these data are too! They include:

- individual species accounts, 1943-1970, which contain an incredible amount of information as Walton Groves noted every sighting of every bird that he observed on field trips during this period;

- a checklist of birds observed at his Highfield Street residence, 91 species, an impressive yard list;

- checklists of birding trips undertaken between 1945 and 1969;

- dates of arrival for Ottawa, 1943-1954, 1960-1970, certainly one of the most complete sets of such data ever recorded in the Ottawa area;

- Arboretum sightings, 1943-1950: (Subsequent years up to 1970 can be extracted from individual species accounts.)

The Arboretum material is perhaps the most outstanding aspect of this important collection of bird data. Grove's office was located in the Arboretum during this period, and he birded the area almost daily, often in the company of Clarie Frankton and/or Doug Savile, both of whom also worked at "The Farm".

His Arboretum records are listed by species in chronological order so that one can see the sequence of bird arrival each year at a glance, as well as the frequency with which each species was

observed. For example, Ring-necked Pheasants were first seen in 1944 on January 21 and were subsequently observed fifteen times before May 28. By referring to the other notes as well, we can see that while Pheasants were observed many times each year during the 1940s and early 1950s, they were becoming scarce by 1961. Groves reports only one sighting thereafter. Groves' notes and records certainly paint a clear picture of this species - and many others too - in a precise and comprehensive way.

The preservation of Walton Groves' records at the Public Archives will ensure that we will always have access to this important set of data. It also demonstrates that records do not have to predate World War I to be of interest to the OFNC and to be considered valuable and worthy of deposition in the Public Archives.

Macoun Club Call for Help!

DO YOU LIKE KIDS AND NATURE AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR THE FUTURE?

The Macoun Club needs a dedicated organizer - or maybe two who could then divide up the work - to arrange Saturday morning programs for the Junior and Intermediate Sections of the Macoun Club during the school year. Arnet Sheppard, who has been handling all three groups, will have to drop these two at the end of the current school year.

The work includes arranging field trips and suitable museum programs, and finding leaders and speakers. Juniors (grades 4-6) meet at 10 a.m. and Intermediates (grades 7-8) at 11 a.m. at the Victoria Memorial Museum. Field trips are operated jointly.

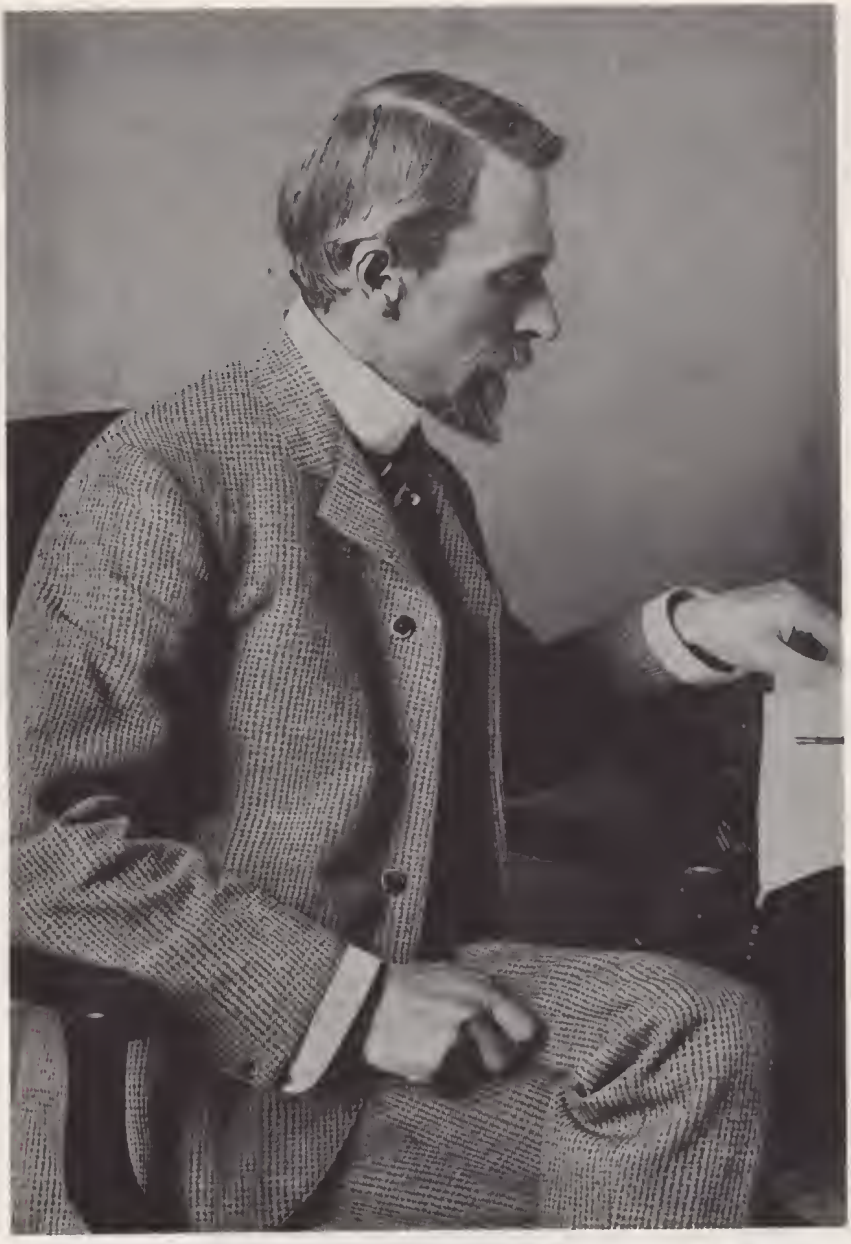
Interested volunteers should be prepared to start in quickly in order to profit by some overlap with Arnet. If you are interested, call Arnet at 238-6154 (work) or 820-9003 (home).

National Capital Commission

Gatineau Park in the National Capital region

GATINEAU PARK MASTER PLAN

Last October the National Capital Commission unveiled its Master Plan for the 35,000-hectare park. The Club had some input in the planning process at the Conceptual Plan stage (*T&L* 11(2): 64, 1977). You may obtain a summary of the plan and find out what changes are contemplated by dropping into the Public Relations Section on the 7th floor of the National Capital Commission building at 161 Laurier Avenue.



kindly lent by G.A. Kingston

Alfred George Kingston (1853-1934)

The Bird Records of A.G. Kingston

Daniel F. Brunton

Holding a variety of positions (Auditor, Treasurer and Vice President) as well as serving on Council for over thirty years (Shutt 1935, Groh 1955, L. Kingston 1967), A.G. Kingston was heavily committed to the management of OFNC affairs in the late 1800's and early 1900's. In addition he was an active participant in the Ornithology Branch until at least 1910 (OFNC 1910) and published fifteen articles and reports on birds and birding in *The Ottawa Naturalist* between 1891 and 1900 (Gillett 1980). A reading of a selection of his papers will indicate his areas of interest, for example, Chimney Swift biology (1891), nesting of Flickers (1894a), amateur vs professional ornithology (1894b). As well, an article on Cowbird parasitism was prepared from his 1895 field notes and illustrates his detailed interest in that species (L. Kingston 1967). Clearly, the man was a keen and observant birder, but until recently we had only these secondary sources to base such conclusions on.

In 1980, Lois Kingston, daughter of A.G. Kingston and a longtime OFNC Council member and keen birder in her own right, passed away. During discussion of this at Council, Roger Foxall suggested that we not only give her family the condolences of the Club but that we offer as well to provide suitable safekeeping for whatever natural history and OFNC material may exist in the Kingstons' papers. When Alex Kingston, brother of Lois, was approached in early 1981, he presented eight notebooks of A.G. Kingston's records from the years 1889 to 1909, several phenological lists, a notebook of detailed bird observations and comments, and several photographs of a Chimney Swift nest taken in 1894 by Kingston and W.J. Topley. A notebook of 1960s observations by Lois Kingston was also included. All of this material has now been added to the OFNC material already being preserved at the Public Archives.

The A.G. Kingston records are particularly important. Not only do they provide an insight into the ways and means of birding in the days before field guides and high quality binoculars, but they also document the bird life of the Ottawa District before the technology of automobiles, airplanes and plastics changed the District forever. In the notes too are a number of significant observations that are important regardless of date.

Here are some of the highlights:

NESTING RECORDS

I was able to fill out 54 nest cards from the nesting records described in his notebooks from both the Ontario and Quebec sides of the District. Needless to say, detailed nest records from that era are rare indeed. The Ontario cards span the years 1889 to 1906 and include records for the following species:

Black-billed Cuckoo (1)
Chimney Swift (4)
Common Flicker (1)
Great Crested Flycatcher (1)
Eastern Peewee (1)
Barn Swallow (1)
Red-breasted Nuthatch (1)
House Wren (1)
Marsh Wren (1)
American Robin (2)
Catbird (2)
Veery (2)
Cedar Waxwing (2)
Red-eyed Vireo (2)
Warbling Vireo (1)
Yellow Warbler (7)
Palm Warbler (1)
Northern Yellowthroat (1)
American Redstart (1)
Brown-headed Cowbird (5)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1)
Purple Finch (2)
White-throated Sparrow (1)
Vesper Sparrow (1)
Song Sparrow (1)

The Quebec-side nests were recorded between 1890 and 1909 and are as follows:

Red-shouldered Hawk (1)
Eastern Phoebe (2)
American Robin (1)
Veery (2)
Dark-eyed Junco (1)
White-throated Sparrow (1)

All of these nest cards are being deposited with the appropriate provincial Nest Records Schemes. Several of the records are particularly interesting:

Red-shouldered Hawk - This species is descreasing in numbers throughout its Canadian range today. Older, pre-decline (pre-pesticide) nesting data are very important for comparison purposes. On April 28, 1901, Kingston wrote,
"Wood west of beaver meadow in Hull. Found a Red-shoulder (sic) Hawk nesting in pine tree about 40 feet from ground. Tree about 50 yards this side of old pole fence which runs down hillside near upper end of meadow. One bird sat on nest and screamed at its mate while I stood by and screamed at it ... May 4. Jack climbed to the Red-shouldered Hawk's nest. Found 3 eggs. Brought away two. Old birds paid very little attention."

Eastern Phoebe - On the same day as the discovery of the Red-shouldered Hawk nest, Kingston found Phoebes utilizing a natural nest site. This species has almost completely taken up man-made structures for nesting purposes, and natural nest sites are rare. Kingston notes " ... found Phoebe's nest nearly finished on face of limestone cliff 200 yards this side of Hawk's nest ..." (28 April 1901).

Brown-headed Cowbird - He found eggs of this species in the nests of Yellow Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, Red-eyed Vireos, Veerys and Purple Finches and kept particularly precise notes on these nests. At a nest of Yellow Warblers at Lemieux Island (referred to as "Remoux Island" in his notes), he recorded the following observations on June 22, 1895, from 6:20 a.m. to 7:56 p.m.:
- 60 feedings observed in 93 minutes (34 by adult female, 27 by adult male),
- young cowbird received 36 feedings,
- young warblers (all 3) received only 24 feedings,
- only the young cowbird ultimately survived!

He also described the feeding of a young Cowbird by an adult male House Sparrow (28 July 1895, Nicholas Street, Ottawa), although the young bird was being raised by a pair of Red-eyed Vireos.

Chimney Swift - Although Kingston published an article (based on a lecture delivered to the Club) concerning Chimney Swift nesting in 1891, he continued to study the species for years thereafter. These observations, meticulously recorded in the notebooks, contain a variety of important and well-documented data on the life history of the swift. I have copied much of it and will be working it up into a separate article.

EXCEPTIONAL DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS

A number of observations represent important early records for several species that seem to have been missed in Eifrig's (1911) study of the birds of Ottawa. These include the first sight record of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, first nesting record of Palm Warbler, and third sighting of Evening Grosbeak, and will be described in a later issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

CHANGING STATUS

With the passage of eighty to ninety years since these notes were taken the status of some species of birds and/or their habitats has changed markedly. He describes, for example, seeing " ... 6 or 8 (House Sparrows) about the village ..." in Wakefield in June, 1891. That certainly is no longer the situation! He makes no mention of Starlings as Ottawa had still twenty years of grace before the first of these was to arrive. Another species not reported, but faithfully given a line in the notebook each year, was Passenger Pigeon. The last had been observed in Ottawa in September 1887, only 1 1/2 years before Kingston started these notes.

Birders have changed too. Kingston and his associates didn't have the transportation opportunities, the equipment and, most important of all, the literature to take advantage of as we do today. Stealth and patience were vital, and detailed notetaking was essential. It could and did take a couple of years of careful observation and notation before a particularly troublesome species

was identified with certainty. Yet Kingston's notes are so well written and his observations are so keen that one can usually identify his "unknowns" right away.

Collecting of specimens was a major part of learning in those days, and most of the active birders spent as much time shooting and collecting eggs as they did watching the birds through field glasses. His remark that " ... I gave most of my time ... to the birds of (this area), using both field glass and gun ..." is typical of the day. And without such effort, our knowledge would be much poorer today.

A.G. Kingston's bird records and diaries are a valuable source of information concerning the birds of Ottawa and area at the turn of the century. We owe Alex Kingston a sincere vote of thanks for allowing us the opportunity to examine his father's important notes.

I would like to urge all readers who may have any records of retired or deceased Club members to bring them to our attention. They will be better protected, and yet more useable and accessible, in the Public Archives than they will be in your attic or basement!

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A Long-lived Blackbird

Geraldine Hampson

I have had a Red-winged Blackbird living with me for nearly thirteen years. Naturally this is because he can't fly, or he would not have been kept but would have been given his freedom. I found him with a wing nearly torn off, possibly because he had flown into a wire. I took him to a vet, thinking the vet would put the bird out of his misery, but the vet said, "Oh no, he is strong and has a will to live, so let's try binding it up til it heals".

Of course both wings had to be wrapped up as it is impossible to do only one. "Spunky", as we came to call him, at first could not balance and kept falling forward. However, he was determined to feed himself, although he was bound like a mummy. After three weeks, the bandage was removed and the wing seemed perfectly healed. Unfortunately, some vital nerve or muscle was gone and he could not fly. So he has lived happily in his cage all these years, coming out to walk around the grass in the summer and the kitchen counter in the winter, and singing in the season the other birds do.

A couple of years ago a lump the size of a pea developed on his head. The vet said it was a tumor. He could either take it off with doubtful results, or we could leave it on and it might fall off and he would bleed to death! I decided to leave it and one morning found it had fallen off leaving only a prick of blood on his scalp. The feathers soon grew back over the spot again.

Another time I found him with his beak imbedded in his chest, so deep I did not think I could get it out without breaking his neck. I got an eye dropper and worked it down until I got the beak out and then gave him a couple of drops of brandy in water and wrapped him in a wool scarf. We had to go to a friend's house for drinks so I took him along as I was afraid he would die of shock. When I explained how I happened to bring along a bird wrapped up in a red scarf, our friends said, "Bring him in and he can have his second brandy with us!" He soon recovered and was looking at everything with bright beady eyes. This happened twice again. I then cut his beak as it was very long and sharp, due, I suppose, to not having anything rough to wear it down.

The only thing Spunky is frightened of is a blue rain hood I wear sometimes. When he sees it, he squawks with fright and jumps up and down. He is getting feeble and does not get up on his perches any more but eats well and keeps his colour bars on the wings. He is quite a character and has lived a really long time.

Mosquitoes of the Ottawa District

Peter Hall

Most people living through an Ottawa-area summer are only too familiar with the angry, high-pitched whine of mosquito wings. And most respond with the same knee-jerk reaction - a quick slap at the offending insect.

We all think our blood is too valuable a commodity to share with any insect. However, before you dispose of the next six-legged marauder, here are a couple of points you might like to consider.

Contrary to popular belief, all mosquitoes are not the same. In the Ottawa District, 40 species of mosquitoes have been found, each species with a life history and peculiarities all its own. Canada-wide, there are 74 species in 10 different genera.

All mosquitoes do have in common a four-stage development - egg, larva, pupa and adult. Most Canadian species complete only one generation a year.

Eggs are laid either on water or on moist soil where pools will eventually appear. This is important as the eggs will not hatch unless they are in contact with standing water. Eggs of some species can survive in dry soil for several years before conditions are right for hatching.

The larvae of all Canadian mosquitoes, except two predatory species not found in the Ottawa area, feed on detritus, algae and other organisms which they strain out of the water. Mosquito larvae have been given their popular name of "wrigglers" because they lash their tails from side to side to propel themselves.

Mosquito pupae look something like tiny tadpoles and can be very active. Most are capable of swimming rapidly with a lobster-like motion as they scoop water with a pair of paddle-shaped flanges on the ends of their abdomens.

The adult mosquito needs little introduction, especially the female. Male mosquitoes usually emerge several days before the females, and the males collect in mating swarms at sunset and sunrise to attract the newly-emerging females.

It's after this that the trouble starts. Following mating, the female of most species turns into a winged hypodermic needle and seeks a blood meal to develop her eggs. There is still scientific controversy as to the role of various attractants drawing the female to her victim. However, it is believed that concentrations of carbon dioxide are important as a long-range attraction. If her victim is warm-blooded, she will be drawn to the heat at closer range. The odour of the host may also play a role. A female may drink up to three times her own weight in blood each time she develops a batch of eggs.

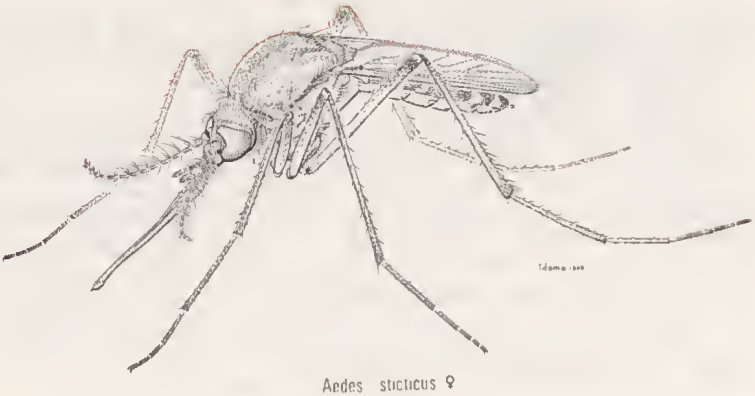
It is this habit of the females that has earned the mosquito its nasty reputation. This habit is reflected in the scientific names given to some of the species in the Ottawa District - *excrucians*, *intrudens*, *sticticus*, *provocans*, *vexans* and *perturbans*. All of these, except *perturbans*, belong to the genus *Aedes*, which contains many of the worst pest species. *Perturbans* is a swamp dweller and the only member of the genus *Mansonia* in Canada. It can be a serious biting pest of man, particularly at dusk.

The members of two other genera, *Anopheles* and *Culex*, are also serious pests, attacking mammals (including man), birds and reptiles. The five *Anopheles* species in the Ottawa District can be told from all other mosquitoes by their habit of holding their proboscis straight out in front. Other mosquitoes hold their proboscis at an angle to the body.

Of the forty species found in the Ottawa District, thirty-one are considered pests and will bite man when he is available. However, all mosquitoes should not be tarred with the same brush. The five species of the genus *Culiseta* feed largely on the blood of birds, but rarely of man. And there is the beneficial species *Toxorhynchites rutilus*, the larva of which is a predator of other mosquito larvae.

In some parts of the world, mosquitoes are important disease vectors. Luckily, mosquito-borne diseases are a rarity in Canada. There were several outbreaks of malaria in Ontario in the nineteenth century which claimed hundreds of victims. The disease was carried by mosquitoes of the genus *Anopheles*. Mosquito-borne human malaria is no longer present in Canada; however, there are species of malarial organisms carried by several other genera that can be transmitted to birds. These diseases may play an important role in regulating populations of wild birds.

Various encephalitis viruses can be carried by mosquitoes in Canada. These have caused the death of horses in both eastern and western Canada and can be transmitted to man, occasionally with fatal results. Fortunately, in the Ottawa area, disease-



Aedes sticticus ♀

carrying mosquitoes are very rare.

Despite these unpleasant characteristics, mosquitoes make a varied and fascinating subject for study. Many have unique life histories. *Wyeomyia smithii* is one of the most curious species. The larvae of *smithii* have been collected only in the water-filled leaves of the Pitcher-plant. It can survive largely on partially-dissolved bodies of other insects and bacteria. It is found across Canada wherever the Pitcher-plant grows except in the northwest and is a common mosquito in the Mer Bleue Bog. This insect is also unique because it is one of the few mosquitoes in which the female does not need a blood meal to develop her eggs.

Mansonia perturbans is unusual because its larvae and pupae bury themselves in the mud at the bottom of marshes. They attach themselves to the roots of cattails and obtain their oxygen by siphoning it from the plant roots.

Several species of the genera *Anopheles* and *Aedes* lay their eggs only in water-filled rot cavities in trees. This is also true of another species only recently discovered in Canada and found in the Ottawa area, *Orthopodoyia alba*. The female of *alba* has not been recorded biting.

As adult mosquitoes begin to emerge in mid-May in the Ottawa area, most of us will be reaching for our cans of "Off". The information here may not make their emergence less of an annoyance nor help the red welts resulting from their bites itch less. However, it may give you something to think on while waiting for the itch to stop.

For an in-depth reference to all the mosquitoes found in Canada, see: Wood, D.M., P.T. Dang and R.A. Ellis. 1979. *The Mosquitoes of Canada*, Part 6 of *The Insects and Arachnids of Canada*. Agriculture Canada

CHECKLIST OF MOSQUITOES OF THE OTTAWA DISTRICT

Anopheles barberi	Overwinters as the larva
Anopheles earlei	female adult
Anopheles punctipennis	female adult
Anopheles quadrimaculatus	female adult
Anopheles walkeri	egg
Aedes abserratus	All *Aedes* in this checklist
Aedes atropalpus	overwinter in the egg in the
Aedes aurifer	Ottawa District.
Aedes canadensis	
Aedes cinereus	
Aedes communis	
Aedes decticus	
Aedes diantaeus	
Aedes dorsalis	
Aedes euedes	
Aedes excrucians	
Aedes fitchii	
Aedes flavescens	
Aedes hendersoni	
Aedes implicatus	
Aedes intrudens	
Aedes provocans	
Aedes punctor	
Aedes riparius	
Aedes spencerii	
Aedes sticticus	
Aedes stimulans	
Aedes triseriatus	
Aedes vexans	
Culex pipiens	All *Culex* in this checklist
Culex restuans	overwinter as the female adult.
Culex territans	
Culiseta impatiens	Overwinters as the female adult
Culiseta melanura	larva
Culiseta minnesotae	female adult
Culiseta morsitans	egg
Mansonia perturbans	Overwinters as the larva.
Orthopodomyia alba	Overwinters as the larva.
Uranotaenia sapphirina	Overwinters as the female adult.
Wyeomyia smithii	Overwinters as the larva.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Dr. D.M. Wood and Dr. P.T. Dang for their help in writing and checking the article and the checklist.

Amphibians & Reptiles
at Chats Falls, Fitzroy Harbour

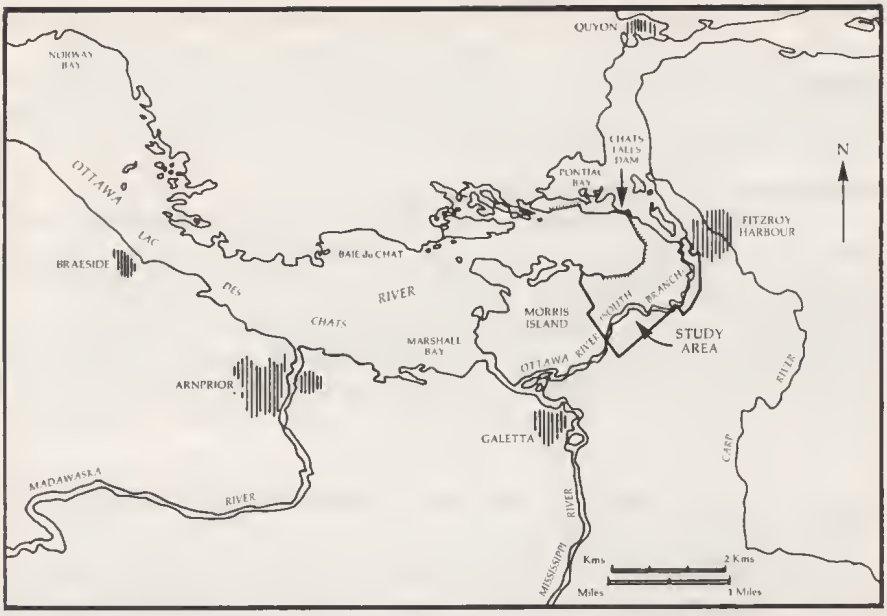
Wayne F. Weller, Terry N. Tobias and Rob R. Evans
The Proctor & Redfern Group
75 Eglinton Avenue East
Toronto M4P 1H3

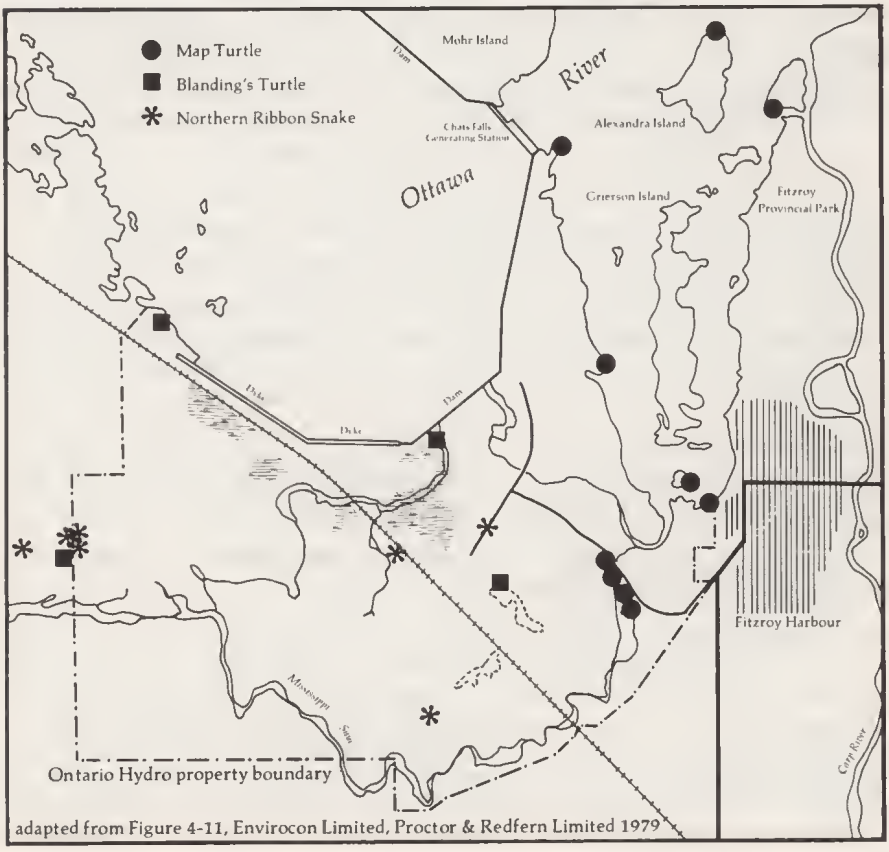
The area of this study is the 426-hectare Ontario Hydro tract on Morris Island at the Chats Falls Generating Station near Fitzroy Harbour. Observations and collections were made from April 1978 to March 1979 during a baseline study commissioned by Ontario Hydro as part of a site evaluation for a proposed new generating station (Envirocon Limited, Proctor & Redfern Limited 1979). Tobias, Evans and Runtz (1980) reported on the birds found during this study. (See *Trail & Landscape* 15(2): 64).

The study area consists of four principal habitat types: open areas (fields, hydro, railway and road corridors), forested areas (stands of White Pine, Sugar Maple, Aspen-Maple, Cedar-Maple and Cedar-Hemlock), wetlands (marshes, swamps and temporary ponds), and waterways (the Ottawa River and its tributaries). A considerable diversity of habitat types is thus available for amphibians and reptiles. Additional information concerning habitats on Morris Island is presented in Dugal and Reddoch (1980).

The herpetological component of the wildlife program was conducted in a mainly non-systematic manner while other investigations were underway; however, systematic searches were conducted on August 21 and 22 in ten areas. Most of the occurrences of frogs and toads were revealed by breeding calls rather than sightings. Specific calls were verified with reference to tape recordings designed for this purpose (Bogert, undated; Kellogg and Allen, undated). Identification of most specimens was confirmed by referring to Conant (1975). Binoculars were used to observe and identify individuals which could not be captured or approached easily, such as Map Turtle. Specimens of several species were preserved and deposited in the herpetological collection of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa.

Twelve species of amphibians and nine species of reptiles were observed within the study area. Although none is considered rare or endangered in Ontario (Cook 1977; Bowman 1978), three species, Map Turtle, Blanding's Turtle and Northern Ribbon Snake, are considered rare in the Ottawa District (Cook 1981). The Northern Ribbon Snake and Tremblay's Salamander are at the edge of their known range in Ontario (Tobias and Evans 1979; Weller





adapted from Figure 4-11, Envirocon Limited, Proctor & Redfern Limited 1979

et al. 1979, respectively).

The following is an annotated list of the amphibians and reptiles found on and near Morris Island. This list should not be considered complete; a more extensive collecting program may have produced several additional species.

COMMON MUDPUPPY *(Necturus maculosus maculosus)*

The Mudpuppy was found in protected bays of the Ottawa River immediately downstream from the existing generating station. Four specimens were collected at three localities where the river bottom consisted of rock and organic muck and mud, and where the river depth was less than four metres. Dates of observation were May 6 and 29, and November 3. The abundance of this species could not be ascertained from this study; however, it is known to be common in the river downstream from this site (Cook 1981). One individual (NMC 19422) was preserved.

BLUE SPOTTED SALAMANDER *(Ambystoma laterale)* and TREMBLAY'S SALAMANDER *(Ambystoma tremblayi)**

These two closely related and morphologically similar entities are common within the study area. Nine specimens belonging to one or the other of these forms were found at eight localities throughout the site from May 10 to October 19. A series of thirty specimens taken from five localities on August 21 and 22 were identified on the basis of size of the red blood cell nucleus (Weller, Sprules and Lamarre 1978). Twelve specimens were Blue-spotted Salamanders and eighteen were Tremblay's Salamanders.

The salamanders were found under fallen limbs, bark, other debris, and in *Sphagnum* mats in woodland depressions, and near temporary ponds in virtually every principal forest habitat in the study area. Finding young individuals at many localities in August verifies that these salamanders breed successfully and that metamorphosis occurs prior to mid-August.

The Blue-spotted Salamander is abundant throughout the Ottawa District (Cook 1981), but the Tremblay's Salamander is common in only local areas in the District. This record of Tremblay's Salamander at the Chats Falls site constitutes an extension of its known range in Ontario approximately 23 km to the northwest from Harwood Plains, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (Weller, Sprules and Lamarre 1978). A separate paper reporting this and other Ontario localities has been published elsewhere (Weller *et al.* 1979).

Several Blue-spotted Salamanders (NMC 18334) and Tremblay's Salamanders (NMC 18333) have been preserved.

RED-SPOTTED NEWT *(Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens)*

The Red-spotted Newt is apparently common in the study area but is not widely distributed. Fourteen efts were found under stones and logs at five terrestrial localities from May 22 to August 23. They were found near woodland ponds and marshes among stands of White Pine, Sugar Maple, Eastern White Cedar and Hemlock.

**Ambystoma tremblayi* = *A. jeffersonianum* x *laterale* (Cook 1981)

EASTERN REDBACK SALAMANDER *(Plethodon cinereus cinereus)*

This species is represented in the study area by both redback and leadback phases. (See Conant 1975). Ten individuals (eight redback and two leadback) were found under stones and fallen logs at four localities in Maple and Hemlock forests on August 21 and 22. Although this survey has not determined the status of this species on the island, it is likely common and widely distributed in woodland areas.

EASTERN AMERICAN TOAD *(Bufo americanus americanus)*

This species is common throughout the marshy areas, and woodland areas near permanent and temporary ponds. Numerous adults were seen from May 19 to October 20; males were heard calling from marshes and ponds from May 19 to 25. Juveniles were observed on August 21 and 22.

MIDLAND CHORUS FROG *(Pseudacris triseriata triseriata)*

This species is common throughout the study area. It occupies diverse habitats but prefers areas near temporary woodland ponds and marshes. It was also found in shoreline areas of the Ottawa River. Chorus Frogs were heard calling from fifteen localities from May 2 to 19.

NORTHERN SPRING PEEPER *(Hyla crucifer crucifer)*

Spring Peepers are abundant throughout the study area, having been found at thirty-two localities near marshes and woodland ponds. They were heard calling from these areas from May 2 to 23, and from forested areas from September 6 to November 6.

GRAY TREEFROG *(Hyla versicolor)*

This treefrog is abundant throughout the study area and is not restricted to any specific habitat type. One individual was even found on a log in the middle of the Ottawa River! Gray Treefrogs were heard calling from marshes and woodland ponds at thirty-eight localities from May 17 to June 25, and sporadically from forested areas from August 22 to September 6. Juveniles were found between July 25 and September 1. One individual (NMC 19423) was preserved.

WOOD FROG *(Rana sylvatica)*

The Wood Frog is common throughout the study area, but it is most common in the Aspen-Maple and mixed coniferous-hardwood areas. It was seen from May 19 to October 11, and since it is an early spring breeding species in the Ottawa District (Cook 1981), the breeding season had presumably finished before our study began. Recently metamorphosed individuals were found between July 25 and August 22. Two individuals (NMC 19424) were preserved.

NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG *(Rana pipiens)*

The Leopard Frog is abundant throughout the study area. It was found near temporary and permanent ponds, marshes and shallow pond margins at fifty-five localities. Leopard Frogs were heard calling from May 4 to 26 and were seen until October 12. Breeding

success was confirmed in all habitats listed above. Recently transformed individuals were found between July 25 and August 22.

GREEN FROG (*Rana clamitans melanota*)

The Green Frog is extremely common throughout the study area. It was found at ninety localities in permanent woodland ponds and heavily vegetated areas of lakes, rivers and streams. Green Frogs were heard calling from May 16 to July 17. Tadpoles of all sizes and juveniles were found throughout the area.

BULLFROG (*Rana catesbeiana*)

The Bullfrog is abundant throughout the major permanent watercourses in the study area. This species inhabits the large, protected bays in the Ottawa River and the large, permanent woodland ponds and marshes. Bullfrogs were heard calling from May 18 to July 17 and were seen from May 18 to September 19. Many sizes of tadpoles were seen throughout the year.

COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*)

The Snapping Turtle was found at ten localities throughout the study area and on the adjacent Quebec side of the Ottawa River. It occupies the major waterways, streams, woodland marshes and temporary ponds on the Hydro property. Snapping Turtles were seen from May 16 to August 22. Finding six females digging holes or laying eggs suggests that nesting occurs from May 16 to June 8.

MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE (*Chrysemys picta marginata*)

Painted Turtles are extremely common throughout the study area. One hundred sightings were made in virtually every aquatic habitat available: the Ottawa River and marshes of its tributaries, and permanent and temporary ponds.

MAP TURTLE (*Graptemys geographica*)

The Map Turtle is restricted to the bay area of the Ottawa River immediately downstream from the existing generating station. This species was seen in the river from June 3 to September 18 and was seen digging nesting holes on June 8. Its breeding success, however, is uncertain.

Map Turtles appear to be common in the Ottawa River in the study area. Twenty-four sightings were made, including the capture of twelve individuals in a fyke net on September 18. This species is rare in the Ottawa District, but it is known from the Fitzroy Harbour area (Cook 1981).

BLANDING'S TURTLE (*Emydoidea blandingi*)

This species was found at four sites in the study area near the shoreline of the Ottawa River, in marshes of its tributaries, and in the woodland ponds. One individual was found wandering in a forested area many metres from water.

NORTHERN WATER SNAKE (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*)

Water Snakes were found throughout the marshy areas associated with the Ottawa River and its tributaries. This species appears to be common in the study area.

NORTHERN REDBELLY SNAKE (*Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata*)

Only one specimen of this species was found. It may be common throughout the area, but it is difficult to find because of its secretive and often nocturnal habits. The specimen (NMC 19426) was preserved.

EASTERN GARTER SNAKE (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*)

The Eastern Garter Snake is common and occupies every habitat type throughout the study area. Sightings were made between May 2 and October 12.

NORTHERN RIBBON SNAKE (*Thamnophis sauritus septentrionalis*)

The Northern Ribbon Snake, although found throughout the study area (nine sightings, seven localities), was more common in marshy areas. It was seen from April 18 to July 20. Its discovery here not only extended the known range of this species in Ontario approximately 16 km northeast from Pakenham, Lanark County, but also represents the first record from the Ottawa District (Tobias and Evans 1979). One individual (NMC 18099) was preserved.

EASTERN SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE (*Opheodrys vernalis vernalis*)

Two adults and one juvenile were found between May 17 and July 26 in open, grassy clearings and in coniferous areas. One individual (NMC 19427) was preserved.

Acknowledgements

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Amphibians & Reptiles in the Ottawa District

Do your part to fill in the gaps in our knowledge of the salamanders, frogs, turtles and snakes of the Ottawa District. If you make observations on the occurrences of species at places not already mapped in the March-April issue of *Trail & Landscape*, dates of spring emergence, frog calling, mating, egg laying, birth of young, last sightings of the year, or any other behavioural or habitat notes, send your reports, on 3" by 5" file cards, to Dr. Francis R. Cook, Herpetology Section, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa K1A 0M8. Include the species name; place, date and time of sighting; names of observers; and additional details. Correction: The correct spelling of the scientific name of the western Gray Treefrog (page 88) is *Hyla chrysoscelis*.

National Museum Activities

BUS TRIP TO POINT PELEE

This popular trip to see songbirds in migration, led by a Museum ornithologist, will take place from Friday evening, May 8, to Sunday, May 10. Register *as soon as possible and before May 1* with Carleton Travel Services at 226-1730.

GALLERY OF PLANT LIFE

This new gallery will open on May 30th. The displays are devoted to the evolution, biology and occurrence of plants. Luxuriant plantings of mosses, ferns, evergreens and flowering plants are the unifying framework, linking colourful exhibit topics and highlighted by original artwork, photographs, audio-visuals and models.

In conjunction with this opening, a superb series of programs entitled *Plants and People* will take place on various weekends throughout the months of May and June.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

May 3 1:00 p.m.	Slide show on edible plants by Dr. Erich Haber, Assistant Curator of Vascular Plants
May 2 & 3 2:00 p.m.	Bilingual workshops conducted by Grant Vipond on the use and preparation of common edible wild plants

NATURAL DYEING

June 21 1:00 p.m.	Dr. Ernie Brodo, Curator of Lichenology, will talk about lichens and introduce the workshop on lichen dyes to be conducted at 2:00 p.m. both days by Judith Rygiel, an Ottawa weaver. (See the November-December 1980 *Trail & Landscape* for further information on this topic.)

MEDICINAL PLANTS

June 27 1:00 p.m.	Slide show by Dr. Thor Arnason, Professor of Biology at the University of Ottawa. He will discuss the uses made by native Indians of plants and the significance of plants in contemporary medicine.
June 27 & 28 2:00 p.m.	Bilingual workshops will be conducted by François Godbout. He will demonstrate local folk remedies and discuss gathering procedures for medicinal plants, as well as simple principles for collecting, preserving and applying plants.

DINOBUS FIELD TRIPS related to the plant programs will take place on Saturday, May 9, and Sunday, June 28. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance by calling 995-9060.

N.C.C. Activities

GATINEAU PARK

Spring's up! The first warm days of the year evoke visions of Wild Leek, speckled Trout Lily and other spring wild flowers. These short-lived sun-worshippers offer a festival of colour to the woodland wanderer. Accompany a naturalist and discover the maple forest's early signs of spring awakening. Perhaps then you, too, will see the need to protect plants that require years of growth before they finally bloom.

Sunday, May 3 2:00 p.m. — Meet at the Park Office, 100 Scott Road, Old Chelsea.

Sunday, May 17 2:00 p.m. — Meet at Champlain Lookout, Gatineau Parkway.

FESTIVAL OF SPRING

Spring Wildflowers of the Woods - Join a naturalist for guided walks in Gatineau Park, Stony Swamp and around Mer Bleue. The Dinobus leaves Nepean Point at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily from May 12 to May 17.

STONY SWAMP CONSERVATION CENTRE

Open House, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join us in welcoming spring back to Stony Swamp. Guided tours from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. as follows:

Sunday, April 26	Frogs and their Relations
Sunday, May 3	Spring Wildflowers
Sunday, June 28	Swamp Creatures

Sarsaparilla Trail - Guided walks to mark the re-opening of this special nature trail, accessible to all, on Sunday, May 10, from 1 to 4 p.m.

MER BLEUE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Open House, Sundays May 3 to June 7 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to see exhibits on nature in spring, logging in the Ottawa Valley and for children's activities. Special activities begin at 2 p.m. as follows:

May 3	Life in Ramsayville Marsh with a nature photographer
May 10	A Pond in Spring
May 17	"Drummer in the Woods", a film on Ruffed Grouse, and related activities
May 24	"Just Turtles", a film and discovery activities
May 31	Wildflowers of Spring, a slide talk and guided walk
June 7	Slide talk on frogs, followed by a short field trip

VINCENT MASSEY PARK

Bats! Learn why these fascinating mammals don't deserve such a bad reputation! Guest interpreter is Brock Fenton of Carleton University. Meet at the pavilion on Thursday, June 18, at 8:30 p.m.

LOG FARM

The Log Farm comes to life with animals and implements, plowing and seeding, spinning and churning. Return to 1875 and try your hand at pioneer farm chores and household crafts, on Saturdays and Sundays, May 23 to June 14.

Summer Workshops

The Biology Department of Queen's University is offering the workshops listed below at a cost of $80. per person (students $60.) including board and food. For details of times and registration, contact Mr. Frank Phelan, Queen's University Biology Station, P.O. Box 31, Elgin, Ontario, Telephone 359-5629.

May 9-10	POLLINATION ECOLOGY - Focus will be on plants and their pollinators. Intensive work on hummingbirds and bumblebees is anticipated.
July 11-12	THE LEPIDOPTERA - Collecting, identification and basic ecology of butterflies and moths.
July 18-26	NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY - Emphasis will be on basic techniques of field photography. Prime subjects will be flowers and insects, though personal interests are encouraged in participants.
August 8-9	BATS AND CAVES - Focus on caves, their formation and biology. Participants should get to visit different types of caves and study the various bats using them for roosting and hibernation.
August 29-30	FALL GOLDENRODS AND ASTERS - Participants will concentrate on identification of this difficult group.
October 3-4	FUNGI - Habitat association, identification and basic biology of fungi form the focus of this workshop.

Queen's is also offering a workshop on field taxonomy and identification for summer naturalists, experienced naturalists and enthusiastic amateurs, from May 30 to June 6th. Phone Joyce Reddoch, 749-5363, for further details.

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Frank Bell (521-8046), Chairman

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader.

BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS

The following series of walks (of 3 to 4 hours duration) is offered for novice birders. Binoculars are essential, and waterproof footwear is advisable.

Saturday	Leader	Assistant
2 May **	Fran Goodspeed (820-4601)	
9 May *	Paul Matthews (521-8045)	
16 May *	Wright Smith (225-1811)	Ian Davidson
23 May *	Bob Bracken (728-3495)	

Meet: * Vincent Massey Park (parking lot near Heron Road Bridge)
*** Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue
Starting Time: 7:30 p.m.

MAY EVENING WALKS

These four informal walks are offered for expanding members' general knowledge of natural history. Insect repellent may be useful. Wear waterproof footwear.

Wednesday
6 May
6:30 p.m.
SOUTH MARCH
Leader: Betty Marwood
Assistant: Jo Carson
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue

Wednesday
13 May
6:30 p.m.
KANATA BEAVER POND AREA
Leader: Ewen Todd (225-4316)
Meet: Carlingwood Shopping Centre (northwest corner of parking lot beside Woodroffe Avenue Postal Station)

Tuesday
19 May
6:30 p.m.
BRITANNIA
Leader: Dan Brunton (829-7307)
Meet: Pond near entrance to the Britannia Filtration Plant. Bus #51 stops here.

Tuesday
26 May
6:30 p.m.

OLD MACOUN CLUB TRAIL
Leader: Loney Dickson (226-4217)
Meet: Bell's Corners United Church, 3955 Richmond Road at Moodie Drive
Waterproof footwear is essential for this outing.

Sunday
3 May
7:00 p.m.

BIRDING AT SHIRLEYS BAY
Leader: Bruce DiLabio (729-6267)
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue
Bring waterproof footwear, binoculars and insect repellent.

Saturday
& Sunday
9&10 May

SPRING WEEKEND IN THE WILD
Leaders: Harry and Sheila Thomson (234-0845)
A weekend tent-out on Mt. St. Patrick to hear the sounds of nature at dawn. Contact the leaders by May 6 for map and briefings or to borrow a tent. (Motel information is available for non-campers.)

Sunday
10 May
7:00 a.m.

BIRDING AT RAMSAYVILLE MARSH
Leader: Roger Taylor (731-9270)
Assistant: Danny Campbell
Meet: Anderson Road at CNR tracks north of Russell Road.
Bring waterproof footwear, binoculars and insect repellent.

Tuesday
12 May
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
TREATMENT OF INJURED WILD BIRDS
Speaker: "Kit" Chubb
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
The speaker and her husband run the Avian Care and Research Foundation at Verona near Kingston. The public can bring any sick, orphaned or injured native birds to the Foundation. There they will be given nursing, medical and surgical care or prompt, professionally administered euthanasia free of charge. The Foundation also carries out a program of public education on Birds and Man. See page 64 of the last issue of *T&L*.

Sunday
17 May
9:00 a.m.

SPRING WILDFLOWERS IN GLOUCESTER
Leader: Albert Dugal (821-1236)
Meet: K Mart parking lot, Highway 31
Two places on N.C.C. land will be visited to compare the plants of a young, new-growth forest with those of a well-established forest more than a hundred years old. Bring a lunch; insect repellent and waterproof footwear are essential.

Saturday 23 May 9:00 a.m.

BUS TRIP TO HARRINGTON NATURE CENTRE
Leaders: David Crevier, Roger Taylor
Meet: Museum of Natural Sciences (parking lot at the west side of the building)

This is a joint excursion with the Catharine Traill Naturalists' Club of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Montreal, to the Canadian International Paper Nature Centre at Harrington, Quebec. David Crevier is a forestry technician at the Centre. This an all-day outing, so bring a hearty lunch. Insect repellent is advisable. There is no charge for the bus trip but participants must register at least ten days in advance by telephoning (613) 722-3050 (after 10 a.m. only).

Monday 25 May 7:30 a.m.

BIRDING WITH GEORGE
Leaders: George McGee (733-1739)
Fran Goodspeed (820-4601)
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue

Birding for the retired but not-so-tired.

Thursday 4 June 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL BIRDS COMMITTEE MEETING
Speakers: Dan Brunton, Loney Dickson, Bernie Ladouceur
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

The results of the owl and spring bird censuses will be presented. Afterwards, everyone interested is welcome to attend the business part of the meeting.

Tuesday 9 June 8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
SUMMER WILDFLOWERS
Speaker: Erich Haber
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

Erich is Assistant Curator, Vascular Plants Section, at the National Museum of Natural Sciences. For the last few years he has been involved in developing the new Plant Life Hall at the Museum. This illustrated talk will be followed by a field trip August 22nd.

Saturday 13 June 9:30 a.m.

BEETLE WALK
Leader: Dr. Henri Goulet (224-7165)
Meet: Neatby Building, located one block west of the Irving Place-Maple Drive stoplight on Carling Avenue. Use the parking lot west of the Neatby Building and south of the greenhouses.

Live beetles in a range of habitats will be studied at one or two major spots in the New Chelsea area. Traps will be set out beforehand to capture some nocturnal beetles for observation. Bring a lunch.

Saturday 20 June 8:00 a.m.

PHOTO FIELD TRIP
Leaders: Betty Marwood (692-4195), Jo Carson (489-3695)
Meet: Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue
A chance to get out and swap ideas and techniques for nature photography while visiting the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Houghton Bay sugar bush near Smiths Falls. Bring a lunch. There will be a follow-up workshop at a later date to view and discuss the results.

Sunday 5 July

CANOE TRIP TO UPPER DUCK AND LOWER DUCK ISLANDS
Leader: Stephen Darbyshire (749-9317)
Members interested in this trip should contact Stephen for details at least two weeks before. Those without canoes could be accomodated if they phone early. Everyone must bring a life jacket. See article on Upper Duck and Lower Duck Islands starting on page 133.

Sunday 19 July 9:30 a.m.

AQUATIC LIFE
Leader: Sharon Smith (521-2378)
Meet: in front of Supreme Court, Wellington Street
Participants will investigate the aquatic life (invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, related creatures, vegetation) of a pond or marsh. Bring wading footwear, a small mesh net, small jars and a lunch.

Saturday 22 August 9:00 a.m.

SUMMER WILDFLOWERS FIELD TRIP
Leader: Erich Haber (722-5523)
Meet: in front of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Bring a lunch for this half-day outing. There will be more details at the June monthly meeting.

Saturday 29 August 7:00 a.m.

BIRDING IN THE WEST END
Leader: to be decided
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue
Bring waterproof footwear, binoculars and insect repellent.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING BUS TRIPS from Dave Bewley
In order to keep the costs of bus trips within reason, members are asked to phone or write in their reservations well in advance of each trip to ensure that they get a seat. All requests received after the first bus has been filled will be held, and a second bus will be ordered if there is a sufficient number to cover the cost reasonably.

DEADLINE: Material intended for the September-October issue must be in the Editor's hands before July 4.

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